

**Room 2 Newsletter Term 1, 2015**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to the new school year. I hope you had a wonderful holiday season with your children. The weather was certainly helpful, especially if you were camping. I spent most of the time inside- sanding, painting, wallpapering our new home which we moved into late January. We downsized when our children left home but are upsizing again to accommodate my husband’s guitar business and 9 active grandchildren (a new wee grandy arrived just before Christmas).

We have a busy time ahead of us with another four children starting through the term and a very full programme, so we will all need to ensure our little lovelies are coping with it all. Adequate rest and healthy eating are very important factors.

j0232054To support your child well in his/her learning, please make yourself aware of the following information.

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**Sunblock:**

Please consider putting   
sunblock on your child before they come to school. We do have sunblock at school to use if we feel it is necessary; however, if you do not wish this to happen for your child, please let me know.

**Independence:**

The first year of school is a huge challenge for all children. One of those challenges is to develop independence. We encourage children to be responsible for their own belongings, i.e. carry in and hang up their own bags, bring their book bags into the classroom each morning and put them into their chairbags, dress themselves and blow their noses.

**Homework:**

Your child will usually bring home  
two reading books to share with you, as well as their poem book. Please share their reading and sign their homework notebook. The readers and poem book must be returned every day; otherwise your child will not be issued with new ones. There may be Religious Education homework to complete and this book must also be returned to school the next day. Bookbags are very important for protecting reading books and homework.

**Swimming:**

During the next five or six weeks  
 we will have daily swimming lessons in the school pool. Please ensure your child has his/her togs and towel **every day** in a swimming or plastic bag even if the weather does not look good. Girls are to wear togs, not bikinis. All swimming gear must be **named,** including the bag. Please do not send goggles with your child as it is vitally important that your child develops confidence in the water without their use.

**Clothing:**

**All clothing must be** **named**,   
including P.E. gear, underwear and shoes. This term all children are expected to wear **hats**. Those without hats will be allowed to play only in shaded areas of the Junior courtyard during morning tea and lunch breaks.

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**Study Topics:**

Inquiry Learning: **When We Learn We Grow**(Health, Science)

RE: Prayer, Jesus, Lent, Easter

Maths: Number, Graphs, Volume

Art: Cutting Skills

Music: Action Songs

PE: Swimming, Ball Skills

Te Reo: Greetings , instructions, numbers

**Towels:**

Help! Our classroom needs

towels for the sink area.

If you have any old towels you could part with we would love to have them, please.

**Email Contact**

If you wish to be contacted by email for any reason, please send you preferred email address to [judy@stpatta.co.nz](mailto:judy@stpatta.co.nz) .

You are very welcome to come in before or after school with any concerns or questions, keeping in mind that some days I have commitments e.g. staff meetings, crossing duty.

Thank you so much for your support.

God Bless

Judy Graham

**New Entrant Wikispace:**

This can be found at <http://nestpats.wikispaces.com>

**Money:**

Please put any money your   
child brings to school in an  
 envelope (a used one is fine) with their name, amount and purpose written on the outside to be posted in the banking box just inside the entrance to the office. I will send someone with them if they don’t know where to go.

**Library:**

Our library day is Wednesday. Your child needs a large named book bag to take their library book home e.g. draw string bag, eco shopping bag. Large book bags can be purchased through the school.

**Pre-schoolers:**

While we love to get to know the families of children in our class, please be considerate of class equipment and causing distraction when bringing   
pre-schoolers into the room.

**Toys**

Toys, other than balls and tennis racquets (named), are not to be brought to school.

Please, also, do not send pencil cases, pencils, rulers etc with your child. Those purchased when starting school are usually all they need. I will let you  
 know if anything new is required.

**Letter of the Week:**

Each week we focus on a new   
alphabet letter. Children are encouraged to bring something starting with that letter for our display table. If your child is unsure of that letter and the sound it makes, here’s an opportunity to do some fun activities about it at home (Refer to your child’s alphabet card for ideas).